

“It’s easy to look at ourselves and see what we are; God looks at us and sees what we can become.”

Loving and Transforming God, in this season of Lent, we intentionally try see ourselves as we are – the good, the bad, the ugly, the pretty. And we admit that we are both saint and sinner. We try to do our best, be our best, and sometimes we do and we are. But we know all too well, that doesn’t always happen. We say things and think things we shouldn’t. We get comfortable in self-pity, we don’t put ourselves in the shoes of others, we become impatient, and the list goes on and on. And we are reminded once again of why we need a Savior. Why Jesus had to go to the cross – because of our sins. And so forgive us, Lord for our offenses we have made against you and against others. But forgive us also, Lord when we get stuck with where we see ourselves. When we can’t imagine how we could be different, be better. When we “give up” on ourselves because we feel we don’t have the ability, the energy, the wherewithal, even the desire to make the changes we need to make. Forgive us, because that means we have either not come to you for help, or we don’t have the strength of faith to believe that you can and will help us. And so we come to you now, as we are, and looking to you for who we can become. For Lord, we want to be ever changing, ever growing, ever learning. Being made more and more into your image. Thank you, O Loving and Transforming God.

Lord, this day, we lift our prayers for those around us. There is hurt and sorrow, suffering and injustice here and in all parts of your world. And we have faith that our prayers do matter. That you do hear, and that it pleases you when your children pray with and for one another. And so we lift up those who are in need. You have heard those on our prayer list, but there are others...

Lord, as we close this time of prayer, we say thank you for being in our lives, for loving us, for guiding us, for forgiving us, and for lifting us up to be the best we can be. May we follow the example of how we are to live, by following Jesus Christ, in what we say, what we do, and how we pray, as together we say....Lord’s Prayer